

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claim pending in the present application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the previous prior art rejections. However, the Examiner now applies some new rejections.

Specifically, claims 3-5, 13 and 15 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gopinathan (US Patent No. 5,819,226) and Berger (US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0103752). Finally, claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gopinathan and Berger, as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Hassett (US Patent No. 6,653,946).

§ 112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claims 3-5, 13, and 15

Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 13, and 15 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. See Statement of Substance of Interview.

Prior Art Rejections - Claims 1-15

To overcome the prior art rejections, Applicant perfects priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and requests removal of Berger as a prior art reference. Berger has a filing date of January 30, 2001, which is after the filing date of JPA 2000-313247 (October 13, 2000), from which the present application claims benefit of priority. To perfect priority, Applicant submits herewith a verified English language translation of priority document JPA 2000-313247, and a statement that the translation is accurate.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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